AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

1.-14. (Cancelled)

15. (New) A system for testing the qualification of a test strip for use to measure prothrombin (PT) time, said test comprising an assay reaction area and a control reaction area, said system comprising:

a meter configured for receiving said test strip; and

a computer-readable medium embodying a program to qualify said test strip according to a method comprising:

obtaining PT results for said control reaction area; and

comparing results from said control reaction area to control qualification criteria comprising an upper limit and a lower limit, said upper limit being about a 1.9 International Normalized Ratio and said lower limit being about a 0.60 International Normalized Ratio, wherein said test strip is qualified if said results fall within said upper limit and said lower limit.

16. (New) The system of claim 15, further comprising outputting a message to a user indicating test strip qualification.

17. (New) A system for testing the qualification of a test strip for use to measure prothrombin (PT) time, said test comprising an assay reaction area and a control reaction area, said system comprising:

a meter configured for receiving said test strip; and

a computer-readable medium embodying a program to qualify said test strip according to a method comprising:

obtaining PT results for said reaction areas; and

comparing results from said control reaction area to control qualification criteria comprising an upper limit and a lower limit, each being dependent on assay reaction area PT results, wherein said test strip is qualified if said results fall within said upper limit and said lower limit.

18. (New) The method of claim 17, wherein said upper and lower limits comprise line functions.

19. (New) The method of claim 18, wherein said line functions are expressed as y=mx+b, wherein y represents an International Normalized Ratio results obtained for said control reaction area, x represents an International Normalized Ratio results obtained for said assay reaction area and $m \approx 0.56$ to 0.58 and $b \approx 0.90$ for said upper limit and wherein $m \approx 0.36$ and $b \approx 0.37$ to 0.38 for said lower limit.

20. (New) The system of claim 19, further comprising outputting a message to a user indicating test strip qualification.

21. (New) A system for testing the qualification of a test strip for use to measure prothrombin (PT) time, said test comprising an assay reaction area, a first control reaction area and a control reaction area, said system comprising:

a meter configured for receiving said test strip; and

a computer-readable medium embodying a program to qualify said test strip according to a method comprising:

obtaining PT results for each said reaction areas; and

comparing results from said first control reaction area to first control qualification criteria comprising a first upper limit and a first lower limit, said first upper limit being about a 1.9 International Normalized Ratio and said first lower limit being about a 0.60 International Normalized Ratio; and

comparing results from said second control reaction area to second control qualification criteria comprising a second upper limit and a second lower limit, each being dependent on assay reaction area PT results;

wherein said test strip is qualified if said results from said first control reaction area fall within said first upper limit and said first lower limit and if said results from said second control reaction area fall within said second upper limit and said second lower limit.

22. (New) The system of claim 21, further comprising outputting a message to a user indicating test strip qualification.